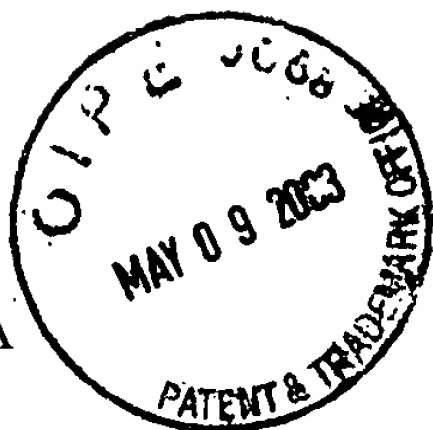


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Mohammad Reza Baraty)
Appl. No. : 09/764,490)
Filed : January 17, 2001)
For : METHODS, APPARATUS,)
MEDIA, AND SIGNALS FOR)
MANAGING UTILITY USAGE)
Examiner : Hal D. Wachsman)

Stange
10/15/03

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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MAY 13 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Dear Sir:

In the Office Action mailed on November 7, 2002, the Examiner indicated that the application contains claims to three patentably distinct species grouped as follows:

- ~~I. Claims 1-51,~~
II. Claims 52-56; and
III. Claims 57-91.

In response, Applicant ~~elects without traverse~~ to proceed with the examination on the merits of the claims of Group I.

If any issues exist, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record at his direct dial number of (949) 721-2950.

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

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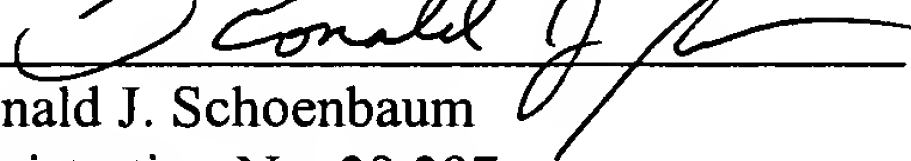
Appl. No. : 69764,490
Filed : January 17, 2001

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 5-5-03

By: 
Ronald J. Schoenbaum
Registration No. 38,297
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995

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